



The President's Daily Brief

July 29, 1974

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

July 29, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Turkish prime minister said early today that the Cyprus peace talks in Geneva are "in the final stage," but that a snag still exists over Turkish troops on the island. (Page 1)

Moscow demonstrated its interest in preserving an independent Cyprus yesterday when it issued its first authoritative pronouncement since Clerides assumed the island's presidency. The Soviets are also sending an observer to the Geneva talks. They further illustrated their interest in carving out a role for themselves by calling at the UN Security Council meeting last night for full implementation of the cease-fire resolution of July 20. (Page 2)

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Prime Minister Karamanlis has strengthened his government in Athens by including some representatives of the moderate left in his cabinet. [redacted]

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[redacted] (Page 3)

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Portuguese President Spinola has agreed to begin the process of granting independence to Portugal's African territories, a significant retreat from his earlier insistence on a referendum. (Page 4)

A note on an armed forces alert in Morocco appears on Page 5.

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CYPRUS

The Cyprus peace talks in Geneva continued through the night. They had appeared close to a successful conclusion early today until Ankara rejected wording in a provisional agreement about troop presence on the island. The Turkish cabinet met for almost three hours this morning. Prime Minister Ecevit said after the cabinet meeting that the negotiations are "in the final stage" but that a snag still exists over Turkish troops in Cyprus.

The Turks have been insisting on a conference communiqué that not only would deal with cease-fire arrangements but also would point to a political solution. Specifically, the Turks want a federation consisting of two autonomous "administrations" co-ordinated by a Greek Cypriot president and a Turkish Cypriot vice president. They also insist on assurances of security for the Turkish Cypriots. Ankara apparently intends to maintain military pressure on Cyprus until it gets at least a general agreement in Geneva on the outline of a political settlement.

Prime Minister Ecevit outlined Turkish demands in a press conference yesterday morning in which he insisted on Ankara's right to continue sending reinforcements to Cyprus until the final status of the island is decided in a way satisfactory to Ankara and the Turkish Cypriots.

In response to a Greek request yesterday, NATO Secretary General Luns called for a meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Brussels today and asked the member states to send their foreign ministers. A summit meeting between Greek and Turkish prime ministers was mentioned [redacted] [redacted] the cabinets in both capitals may decide today whether a summit is desirable.

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Limited military activity by Turkish forces on Cyprus continues [redacted]

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USSR-CYPRUS

Moscow demonstrated its interest in preserving an independent Cyprus yesterday when it issued its first authoritative pronouncement since Clerides assumed the island's presidency.

The Soviets said that they were dispatching an observer to the Geneva talks in order to underline their concern that London, Athens, and Ankara may agree to change the island's political status. Moscow's determination to carve out a role for itself in the Cyprus situation was further illustrated by its call last night in the UN Security Council for full implementation of the cease-fire resolution passed by the council on July 20.

Soviet support for Makarios appears to be increasingly pro forma. Although suspicious because it believes that Washington and Athens persuaded him to accept the presidency, Moscow has avoided direct criticism of Clerides. [redacted]

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GREECE

Prime Minister Karamanlis has strengthened his government by including some representatives of the moderate political left in his cabinet. His aim reportedly is to create a government as broadly representative as possible to handle the Cyprus crisis.

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PORTUGAL

President Spinola's statement on Saturday asserting that the process of granting independence to the African territories should begin immediately is a significant retreat from his earlier insistence on a referendum. He failed to spell out the conditions under which the territories would make the transition to independence, however.

Spinola said that Lisbon could begin now to transfer power to Portuguese Guinea, Angola, and Mozambique. He did not mention the Cape Verde Islands, suggesting that Lisbon hopes to retain these strategic islands, or at least delay consideration of their status.

Several African leaders who are attempting to mediate between the rebels and the Portuguese--notably presidents Senghor of Senegal, Kaunda of Zambia, and Nyerere of Tanzania--may be encouraged by Spinola's speech to undertake new initiatives.

Portuguese Guinea may be the first to come to a settlement. [redacted]

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Portugal could recognize the rebel-proclaimed government of Guinea-Bissau, which already has widespread recognition and an embryonic administrative structure.

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NOTE

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Morocco-Spain: Morocco has placed its armed forces on alert, apparently as part of a policy of intimidation designed to gain advantage in its dispute with Spain over the future of Spanish Sahara.

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